

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DRC-01 /047 W

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R 080955Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2600

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS ON AVIAATION ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 66888; (B) STATE 62299; (C) MANILA 4095

1. EC/COM COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF CALLED ON CAB EXEC DIRECTOR AGCAOILI APRIL 8 IN ABSENCE OF CAB CHAIRMAN ASPIRAS TO CONVEY DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS IN REFS A AND B CONCERNING CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS AND HOMECOMING FARE ISSUE. JUST AS EMBOFFS WERE LEAVING FOR APPOINTMENT, NOTE FROM SECRETARY ROMULO TO AMBASSADOR DATED APRIL 5 WAS DELIVERED (TEXT SEPTTEL) ENCLOSING DRAFT TEXT OF NOTE PHIL CHARGE WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO DEPARTMENT SUPPORTING PAL APPLICATION TO US CAB FOR PERMIT TO OPERATE DC-10 AIRCRAFT ON TRANS-PACIFIC ROUTE. LETTER ASKS AMBASSADOR USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO ASCERTAIN USG POSITION ON MATTER AND SEEK FAVORABLE CONSIDERATIONS BY DEPT AND US CAB OF PAL APPLICATION.

2. DRAFT PHIL NOTE STATES THAT ACCORDING TO PAL, DEPARTMENT OFFICER JOHN MEADOWS HAS INDICATED THAT PAL'S APPLICATION LIKELY TO BE DENIED. REF A GAVE NO INDICATION THAT DEPARTMENT HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH PAL REPRESENTATIVE AND WE TRUST THAT NO SUCH POSITION HAS BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSY. WOULD
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APPRECIATE DETAILS OF WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WAS TOLD TO PAL.

EMBASSY PLANS ACKNOWLEDGE ROMULO LETTER SETTING FORTH OUR PROPOSAL FOR US-RP CONSULTATIONS AND STATING AMBASSADOR WILL BE PURSUING MATTER IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS FORTH-COMING TRIP. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED SEND EMBASSY COPY OF PHIL NOTE WHEN DELIVERED.

3. RE PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS, ECOM COUNSELOR MADE CLEAR DEPT'S WISH TO DISCUSS ENTIRE RANGE OF AIR TRANSPORT ISSUES AND NOTED THAT GOP SHOULD PROPOSE TIME AND PLACE OF DISCUSSIONS. AGCANILI APPEARED AMENABLE TO PROPOSED TALKS AND SAID HE WOULD CONVEY INFORMATION TO ASPIRAS AND DFA. ASPIRAS WILL BE AWAY FROM OFFICE UNTIL APRIL 20, AND APPONTMENT MADE WITH HIM ON THAT DATE TO RECEIVE GOP RESPONSE.

4. RE HOMECOMING FARE, AGCAOILI EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT VOUCHER SUBSIDY SYSTEM FOR \$600 GR-15 EXCURSION FARE (REF C) WOULD BE DROPPED AND UNDERTOOK TO CONFIRM THIS AS GOP POSITION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUBSIDY FEATURE WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR US CARRIERS AND HOPED THAT DROPPING IT WOULD OPEN WAY FOR NWA AND PANAM TO JOIN IN PAL FILING WITH US CAB SO THAT THEY COULD PARTICIPATE IN HOMECOMING PROGRAM. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED PROBLEMS ENTAILED IN REDUCED FARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH IATA FARE STRUCTURE FOR OTHER POINTS IN PACIFIC. ALSO NOTED FINANCIAL BURDENS ON AIRLINES WHICH MADE REDUCED FARES LESS DESIRABLE. EMBASSY REQUESTS FURTHER INFO ON PAL FILING AND POSITIONS TAKEN BY US CARRIERS AS WELL AS US CAB.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENT OCCASION TO EXPLORE ENTIRE RANGE OF OUTSTANDING CIVAIR ISSUES WITH GOP, BUT WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT STRONG PRESSURES WILL BUILD UP FOR APPROVAL OF PAL DC-10 SERVICE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY SEC ROMULO'S LETTER. WE WOULD IN NO WAY SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT ULTIMATE ISSUE OF MEANS TO PERMIT DC-10 OPERATIONS WOULD BE MADE DEPEND ON SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TALKS ON BROADER ISSUES, EVEN THOUGH THIS CLEARLY DESIRABLE. MANY OF LONG-STANDING ISSUES INVOLVE CONFLICTING VIEWS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRONGLY HELD ON BOTH SIDES, AND LEVERAGE OF DC-10 APPROVAL MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO MOVE PHILS TO ABANDON THEIR LONG-HELD POSITIONS ESPECIALLY IF OUR OWN POSITIONS LACK ANY GIVE. WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND INTERESTS OF US CARRIERS ND BESTT WAY THESE CAN BE SERVED, PERHAPS THROUGH EARLIER PROPOSED MINI-PACKAGE WHICH COULD BE NEGOTIATED IN FAIRLY SHORT TIME. SULLIVAN

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